Sub-standard wheat and rice in FCI godowns

t1850. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wheat and rice stored in the godowns of Food Corporation of India is sub-standard;

(b) if so, the amounts of wheat and rice separately lying there upto September, 2005 that was not fit for human consumption;

(c) whether there is any arrangement to check the quality of this wheat and rice; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Food Corporation of India (FCI) was holding a quantity of 67.43 lakh MT of wheat and 35.59 lakh MT of rice as on 30.9.2005, out of which 124 MT wheat and 14851 MT rice were in lower category or sub-standard. Lower category stocks, though within PFAIimits, are not issued for Public Distribution System without upgradation. Further, a quantity of 0.12 lakh MT wheat and 0.11 lakh MT rice, which was damaged and not fit for human consumption, was also available with FCI as on 30.9.2005. Majority of the damaged stocks got affected by cyclones and flash floods in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra and Gujarat.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. There exists an established procedure to cheek the quality of foodgrains stored in the godowns of FCI. Technical Assistant of the Depot inspects the stock under his custody once in every fortnight. Assistant Manager (QC) superchecks the stored stocks once in a month. Deputy Manager (QC) of the district superchecks the stored stocks once in three months. District Manager has to inspect two godowns under his jurisdiction in a month. Senior Regional Manager also inspects two depots in a month in his region. Zonal Manager has to inspect atleast one depot in his zone in a month. In addition, surprise checks of stock accepted and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

stored in the depots are conducted by the officers of this Ministry and also by the squads of FCI hqrs., respective Zonal and Regional Offices from time to time.

Cases and vacancies in consumer courts

t1851. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in various consumer courts of the country alongwith the number of vacancies and since when, Sitate-wise;

(b) the action initiated by Government to fill up vacant posts and by when the posts will be filled;

(c) whether with a view to dispense speedy justice to the consumers, Government will instruct the consumer courts to work on the lines of Lok Adalats; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Information in this regard, as furnished by National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) is enclosed as Statement (See below).

(b) Under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, it is the responsibility of .the State Governments/UT Administrations to set up the State Commissions and District Fora in their States/UTs and ensure their effective functioning, including filling up vacant posts of Presidents/Members in these consumer fora. However, being nodal Department in the field of Consumer Protection, the Department of Consumer Affairs has been periodically taking up with the State Governments and UT Administrations the question of strengthening the functioning of the consumer courts by providing adequate infrastructure and filling up the vacancies of Presidents/Members. State Governments have been asked to take all possible steps to enable early filling of vacant posts in consumer fora.

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